

(d) whether the Government propose to reopen this mine; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which production in the mine is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir:

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Postal System

5380. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to modernise the postal system so as to remove the mismanagement therein; and

(b) if so, the outline and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of the postal system by induction of technology has been one of the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan of the Department of Posts. This objective is being achieved through introduction of computer based technology in different areas of activities with specific emphasis on counter services.

The programmes of modernising the postal services are intended to provide :—

(a) More efficient and responsive counter services for the customer ;

(b) New value added services to meet the needs of identified customer groups, and

(c) Modern and clean work environment with better

ergonomics to raise employees morale and eliminate drudgery in work.

The specific programmes of mechanisation and modernisation formulated for this purpose are :—

- Introduction of computer based multi-purpose counter machines.
- Automatisation of mail processing in important large centres.
- Setting up of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) network for speed transmission of money orders and provision of other value added services.
- Use of computers for Savings Bank, Post Life Insurance (PLI) and Speed Post Operations.
- Modernisation of the counter services and the front office through upgradation of work environment and improved customer facilities.
- Providing upgraded operational equipments in more in important offices to speed up work processes and eliminate drudgery of work.

The extent of achievements in the schemes for mechanisation and modernisation, the Plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose and the amounts utilised upto March, 31,1996 are indicated in statement-I, II and III respectively. During 1996-97, which is the last year of Eighth Plan Period, these programmes of modernisation were continued.

The Schemes introduced are being consolidated for wider coverage and optimal utilisation of resources in order to extend the benefit of technology to a large section of customers including those in the rural areas.

Statement-I

Physical achievement in the schemes during the first four years of the eighth plan period

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Target 8th Five Year Plan	Achievement as on 31.3.96 plan
1	2	3	4
1. Upgradation of Technology :			
a.	Installation of Multi-purpose counter machines	5000	2300
b.	Mechanisation of Mail handling	3	2
c.	Installation of VSAT network	75 (Stations)	61 (Stations)
d.	Modernisation of Post Offices	No specific Target Set	481

1	2	3	4
e.	Installation of Track and Trade system for Speed Post	-	2
f.	Electronic Franking Machine	-	40
g.	Machine made hand cancellor	25000	18000
h.	Stamp cancelling machine	No target set	255
2. Postal Life Insurance			
a.	Computerisation of PLI work in Circles	11	11
3. National Savings			
a.	Computerisation of counter operations in post offices	5 HOs	5HQOs
b.	Savings bank Control Organisation computerisation	No Target Set	107
4. Materials Management			
a.	Computerisation of Postal Store Depots	46	46

Statement-II*Plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 for Mechanisation and Modernisation*

Scheme	Eighth Plan Outlay (In Rs. Crores)
1. Upgradation of Technology	132.53
2. Postal Life Insurance	5.77
3. National Savings	2.50
4. Materials Mangement	4.90
Total	145.70

Statement-III*Funds utilised upto March 31, 1996 under various schemes of Mechanisation and Modernisation*

Scheme	Expenditure upto 31.3.1996 (In Rs. Crores)
1. Upgradation of Technology	95.27
2. Postal Life Insurance	2.17
3. National Savings	0.98
4. Materials Management	1.76
Total	100.18